Volume XV Chicago, Ill., February, 1939 Number 11

The Liberalist

EVERY moment of this strange and lovely life, from dawn to dusk, is a miracle. Somewhere, always, a rose is opening its petals to the dawn. Somewhere, always, a flower is fading in the dusk. The incense that rises with the sun, and the scents that die in the dark, are all gathered, sooner or later, into the solitary fragrance that is God. Faintly, elusively, that fragrance lingers over all of us.

—BEVERLEY NICHOLS.

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THE LIBERALIST

Preston Bradley ..... **Editor**

Grace Thayer Bradley ..... **Associate Editor**

Volume XV Chicago, Ill., February, 1939 Number 11

MEDITATION

"Infinite and eternal Heart, hovering about us this morning and high above all the din and carnage of the world's hate we feel the beautiful presence of that immortal soul and that eternal spirit who is the reincarnation of brotherhood, of sympathy and tolerance, whose confidence in the fundamental processes of humanity was so great that never once in his life was it shattered. We sense this morning the presence of the immortal spirit of our immortal Lincoln. Standing high above the battlements of earth, looking down upon a world torn into warring, hating, grasping factions of greed and nationalism, broods the gentle spirit of the Illinois prairies.

It is our prayer, our only prayer that that great heart, that beautiful soul, that reincarnation of love for his fellowman, shall some day, **some day,** and hasten the day, shall see a different world when men shall have learned the inevitable verdict of history that hate and wars and confusion and conflict are not the ways, neither are they the answers.

So, great heart of Lincoln, silent all these many years, resting yonder in thy tomb in Springfield, tired heart, a broken heart, yet today living again in our hearts and in the hearts of those who hold the destiny of mankind in their hands. Oh, might there be some way in which humanity can come to the realization that peace and freedom and democracy, light, life and the sacred integrity of human personality — man, MAN was born to be free, born to experience the glory of liberty, and might man never cease in the quest for the realization of this experience as long as he broods on the memory of our Lincoln.

May those young hearts who, in a moment of world tension and in a second of unexpectancy, found a watery grave after the mutilation of explosion and hate in the harbor of far-off Havana, might those young men who in that hour paid the last full measure of devotion, might we on this the anniversary of that catastrophe, remember them, and while the whole world who follows the old way of an old cross in grief at their altar steps this day as they pray for the repose of their beloved spiritual shepherd, their Holy Father. May those of us who do not follow that way and who may not bow at that altar but to the Father of all mankind, might we express our gratitude for the world leadership of peace, for the sense of economic and social injustice and iniquity, for the advanced leadership which this rare spiritual and courageous Father of millions of human beings gave to the utmost.

So, today white and black, Republican or Democrat, all of us bow in the memory and renewed in our consciousness in the life and spirit of Abraham Lincoln, of Pius XI, of all who have died, died believing in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. And may we all here, and out there in the sick room, in the Church, in the car along the highway, wherever men and women are a part of this service, might we together in our hearts remember the words of a great prayer:

'Our Father, wo art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name,' etc.

"LINCOLN IN OUR TIME"

Sermon by Dr. Preston Bradley, Pastor of The Peoples Church of Chicago—February 12, 1939

"Like all genius, the genius of Abraham Lincoln defies analysis and stands almost impervious to explanation. The more this old world rolls on its way toward some destiny which is forward in the centuries which are yet to come, the more it will be attracted to the elemental integrity which was the outstanding characteristic of Abraham Lincoln. You cannot explain Lincoln by any of the standards which we usually apply to lesser personalities, his genius cannot be explained by any law of heritage, it does not exist there, his origin was of such a lowly and uncertain character that no amount of effort to substantiate the quality of his life can be satisfactorily explained by that approach. It certainly cannot be explained by environment, unless an environment of such rugged circumstances constitutes the greatest creative influence toward the integrity of a person's moral and intellectual balance. His poverty was his schoolhouse, but it was not his explanation. Lincoln can probably be, as nearly as it is possible for us to explain him, explained in his relationship to a certain fundamental rectitude of the universe itself. Lincoln was the first, in many particulars of American philosophy of government, to recognize just how moral, moral issue are in political life. We founded the Republic, adopted a Constitution, wrote a Bill of Rights in the closing years of the 18th century, but it was not until the middle and the latter part of the 19th century that that Republic had sufficiently advanced in its moral sensitiveness to recognize that slavery was an ignoble institution. George Washington, the first president of this country, was a slave owner. He paroled and gave freedom to over 300 slaves at his death by his will. Even that great exponent of democracy, Thomas Jefferson, held black men in bondage. It was not until the latter part of the 19th century that this nation, as a nation, had developed a sufficient moral sensitiveness to recognize that slavery was an ignoble institution. The basic moral quality of Abraham Lincoln's philosophy of government and politics associated him with an integrity, an integrity that was first inspired and awakened by the straightness and sureness of his conscience. All of his life, Abraham Lincoln gave evidence of possessing a conscience. He could not see a little kitten thrown out upon thin ice by a group of boys in a wood lot without wading in and breaking the ice and rescuing that little kitten, which he did as a boy of eighteen. He had a basic awareness of wrong, he had a conscience, while the much more familiar episode when he was only nineteen of seeing a black man torn from his family with his weeping children hanging and clinging to his knees, placed on an auction block in the city of New Orleans and sold up the river. When Abraham Lincoln saw that he was only nineteen years of age, but it did something to him, it stirred in his heart a depth of revolt! The injustice, the wrongness of it, the absolute wrongness! Abraham Lincoln's virtue was the virtue of sensitiveness to injustice and wrong.

Ladies and gentlemen we are thinking of Lincoln now, Lincoln in our time, Lincoln in OUR time! There are no political, no racial, no national problems which are not basically and fundamentally moral problems! Every problem at the bottom is a moral problem, and when you are dealing with moral problems you had better

have moralists dealing with the problems! Do you think Abraham Lincoln would compromise in the presence of this world's disaster about democracy today? What do you think this man would do, this man who had a Civil War to cope with an who wanted, with all his heart, to avoid it, for his roots too were in the South. Do not forget that he came out from under the heart of a mother while she was sleeping on a mattress filled with corn husks which rested on a dirt floor in a log cabin in LaRue County, Kentucky. Lincoln, let us remember, was born in Kentucky, and any of the sympathetic attitudes which Lincoln might have had because of his Southern associations, and he had them, were overbalanced by Lincoln's moral character, by Lincoln's awareness of what was right and what was wrong, that was Lincoln! Lincoln never asked whether it was politically expedient, Lincoln never asked what it would mean to him in his political program as a man or as an official, Abraham Lincoln never was re-elected to any office which he ever held, except the presidency of the United States. He was elected to the Legislature of this State, and the next time he ran was defeated; he was elected to the United States Congress and the next time he ran he was defeated, every time Lincoln ever ran for office which he ever held, he was defeated. Read the record of this man's defeats and ask why was he defeated and you will find the answer to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln never compromised when the question was "What is right, and what is wrong?" Surrounded, as he was, by traitors, oppressed and saturated by Copperheads all about him, and what's a "Copperhead?" A Copperhead is the lowest of the reptiles in the world, for a Copperhead never gives warning when it strikes, a rattlesnake does, I would prefer the company of rattlesnakes to Copperheads for a Copperhead strikes from ambush and strikes without warning, and when the cabinet of the President met together that evening in Washington and Mr. Lincoln said: 'Gentlemen! Gentlemen! the hour has struck, this country cannot endure, **IT CANNOT ENDURE** half slave and half free!' And Stanton, the politician, and Chase, the politician, looked at him and said: 'Oh, Mr. Lincoln, let's not do that! We can compromise some way!' Mr. Lincoln then said: 'Compromise on a moral question? Good night, gentlemen.' As the cabinet left that famous room in the White House, Abraham Lincoln retired to his bedroom, sat down in front of his desk with his head in his hands, dropped to his knees in a prayer to God, arose, and when the gray mists of the dawn were coming up over the hills of Washington, Abraham Lincoln went to his bed, but on his table was the draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, and to the world, and to America, to every slave and every slave owner, Abraham Lincoln, by a stroke of his pen, freed the black man in these United States. There is that rugged countenance before you, there is that noble brow, there is the kindly, homely but beautiful face, and I cannot help but ask, if he walked again the streets of Springfield, as Vachel Lindsay has told us in his immortal poem "Abraham Lincoln walks the streets of Springfield at midnight,' if he could walk the streets of Washington, if he could walk the streets of Chicago, if he could walk the streets of Moscow, if he could walk the streets of Madrid and Barcelona, and Berlin, and Tokyo, of Vienna, of Paris, of Shanghai, if Abraham Lincoln, in contrast to the pigmies of this modern world who hold the loyalty and fidelity of thousands and thousands of loyal and honorable people in the name of tyranny, with liberty dead, and democracy hated and despised, I ask you, would Lincoln stand by the side of Hitler, of Franco, of

Mussolini, of Stalin, or would Lincoln, the same believer in the rights of man, stand by the side of democracy and everything which democracy stands for? I ask you on his birthday, Americans, to decide that.

Where would Lincoln be in this hour? He had a Civil War, but it was a Civil War of the people who were engaged in it, in the country which belonged to them, it was not a Civil War as the Civil War of Spain is today, fought by foreign soldiers, foreign bombers, foreign planes, foreign dollars, on the soil of a great people, the Spanish people. Never, in view of historical accuracy, confuse the Civil War of Spain with the Civil War of the United States of America! We fought a Civil War, but we did not fight it with British soldiers, or with Italian soldiers, or with French soldiers, we fought our Civil War with American soldiers on both sides of an American problem under the leadership of an American statesman, and if Lincoln were on this earth today, I say it under the compulsion of the assault upon democracy in this world, at every cost, Abraham Lincoln would stand shoulder to shoulder with the democracy he helped to preserve! I believe that! And on his birthday, I do not hesitate to say it, when our own Civil War was inaugurated and the conflict stopped, you remember how Lincoln, with that sad, sad, penetrating and almost mystic face of his, dropped to his knees in front of his fireplace and as he picked up the flag which draped it, he said, 'Old flag, I have just signed a call for fifty thousand volunteers, Fort Sumter has been fired on, we are in a Civil War, a Civil War, and there are stars missing, and there will be more missing, old flag!' and he buried his face in its folds. 'I love you, I didn't want to do this, but it seemed the only way,' and he unfurled it and placed it on the mantelpiece, and squaring his shoulders, raised his lovely, finely chiselled head high, and went out to the bloody business. And then that day when by messenger and telegraph there came the flash, 'Lee has surrendered to Grant at Appomatox! The Civil War is over!' and all over the uplands and the lowlands, the prairies and plains of this nation of ours, the cry went, 'The War is over! The boys are coming home! Lee has surrendered!' Was it vengeance, was it malice, was it anger, was it reprisal for Lincoln? You know what it was. Let us tell it again and again and again to his immortal memory! 'Grant, Grant, give General Lee back his sword!' That's the way we wound up the Civil War! 'Give Lee back his sword! Tell the boys to go home, give them all the horses you can, the South is ruined, the farms are devastated, we have got to build up the South again! You know, Lee, we are all one family. You graduated from West Point, Lee, let's build America!' That's what Lincoln said, and we see him that night — Grant, by some mysterious reason, had cancelled his attendance to the Ford Theater, Mr. Lincoln did not want to go, a few nights before he had had a strange dream, most strange, and he did not want to go. He was urged to go and kept his appointment. That night, befor he left the White House, he picked up that old hat of his, put that old shawl characteristically about his shoulders, stood in front of the same mantelpiece in the White House, picked up the folds of the same flag and he said, 'Old flag, it is over, the Civil War is over, and look!' as he pointed to the background of blue, 'Look! the stars are coming home, Kentucky is back, Virginia is back, Tennessee is back, old flag, there is not a star missing, they are all back home in Old Glory' and he went out to Ford's Theater and was shot. Lincoln! Not a star missing! Lincoln! Some of us still believe, and will die for that belief, Lincoln, that freedom and liberty are the most precious and

beautiful things in the world. And, Mr. Lincoln, we would not trade you for a hundred million Hitlers, and a thousand Francos, and a thousand Mussolinis, and a thousand Stalins! America has Lincoln, let's keep Lincoln!"

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"HOME COMING" LUNCHEON

A committee of the older members—that is, of ten years or longer—of the Woman's Club, sponsored a party with the specific idea of a reunion of all who had ever held membership in the Woman's Club. Mrs. Charles L. Roberts was chairman with Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Hermsdorf and Mrs. Bradley, co-chairmen, and a large committee of old members.

The affair was entered into with a great deal of enthusiasm, and all old members were contacted that could be reached. The luncheon and program were arranged to take place in Channing Hall, January 30th, and a hundred and fifty reservations made. But no one consulted the weather man—and—on Monday morning of that date, Chicago awakened to find itself "snowed in" with a blizzard! Traffic lines tied up till noon, no busses till late evening, loop stores didn't even open and all schools were closed. Radio announcements kept people informed of these conditions, and even radio programs had to be substituted with anything those artists who had managed to climb through drifts and reach the studios, could supply. It was a "topsy-turvy" day—but one not without interest and great beauty when viewed, safe and warm, from a window looking down the drive and across the park. However, side streets and the suburbs were not dug out for many days to come. But—this is not a weather report, it's about the party which obviously had to be postponed till the following Monday. Everything could be cancelled except the chickens. So Mrs. Roberts, who is ever resourceful, cooked them and made them into salad and on Wednesday evening, after Dr. Bradley's Book Lecture, sold chicken salad sandwiches with coffee, and salad by the pound in cartons, in Channing Hall, assisted by some of the ladies and the Ushers' Club, hence no loss!

When the Home Coming party was given, February 6th, there were a number who had expected to be there who could not come, but a hundred or more sat down to luncheon at the prettily decorated tables. All members of over ten years were given a large, gay calendula to wear. For the speakers' table, past presidents and charter members, Mrs. Gunton had made dainty and original place cards. To the Charter members and past presidents (includ- our present president) Mrs. Bradley presented bouquets of gardenias, making appropriate remarks regarding the special work of each one—some going way back into early Club history. In accepting the flowers, each responded briefly. Mrs. Bradley was presented with gardenias also, Mrs. Lee making the complimentary speech, and a box of blooming spring flowers was given to Mrs. Roberts from her committee.

There were seven charter members present: Mrs. G. U. Gairing, the first treasurer; Mrs. W. D. Cameron, Mrs. Emma Henderson, Mrs. Minnie Hackney, Mrs. Hinman, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Bradley. A birthday gift was presented to Mrs. Charles Denicke, her natal day falling on the first date the party was planned for, January 30th. Mrs. Denicke has long been an active and loyal member, and the Club wanted to honor her.

Mr. J. Bradley-Griffin and Mr. Philip Jorgensen gave a program of poetry and music which was beautiful and highly appreciated. The Woman's Club choral group (organized since Christmas) with Mrs. Bessie Sings, accompanist, and Mrs. H. M. Wilson, leader, sang several old-fashioned and charming songs, closing with "A Perfect Day." Dr. Bradley gave

an address of appreciation and reminiscence which sprang from his heart. Letters were read by Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Pape from members whose homes now lie as far east as Boston and Ohio, south to Florida, west to Los Angeles, and all in between. The Home Coming party was decidedly a success due very largely to Mrs. Roberts' efforts. Everyone expressed the hope we would have another some day!

It was delightful to see members whom we have not greeted for a long time and to hear from the far away ones by letter. There is a bond which early association linked into a chain, friendships made in the Woman's Club of The Peoples Church which will never be forgotten no matter how many miles and years separate us.

G. T. B.

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BOOK LECTURES FOR MARCH

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The weekly book lectures are keeping up in attendance. It is very enheartening to Dr. Bradley to have so many people interested in books attending his Wednesday evening book reviews. The following is the list selected for the month of March:

March 1, "Disputed Passage", by Lloyd C. Douglas.

March 8, "A Peculiar Treasure", an autobiography, by Edna Ferber.

March 15, "Wind Without Rain", by Herbert Krause.

March 22, "Unforgotten Years", by Logan Pearsal Smith.

March 29, "Dynasty of Death", by Taylor Caldwell.

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NEW MEMBERS

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We publicly welcomed the following new members in the Church in January, 1939:

Miss Ruby Picard,
915 Wilson Ave.

Mr. Carley C. Harrison,
901½ W. 3rd St., Sterling, Ill.

Mr. L. W. Harrison,
901½ W. 3rd St., Sterling, Ill.

Mr. Robert Illing,
1134 Columbia Ave.

Miss Phoebe Jenkins,
4318 Irving Park Blvd.

Mr. G. Theodore Johnson,
5443 Winthrop Ave.

Miss Judy Kendal,
59 E. Bellevue Pl. (from First M.E. Church, Greensburg, Ind.)

Dr. A. Louise Klehm,
4724 N. Sacramento Ave. (from St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church, Niles Center, Ill.)

Miss Peggy Lindberg,
1062 Bryn Mawr Ave.

Mr. Hans Neuert,
4618 Kenmore Ave.

Miss Cora K. Schultz,
4724 N. Sacramento Ave. (from Palatine Methodist Church, Palatine, Ill.)

Mr. and Mrs. R. Edward Seitz,
7917 Fletcher St., Elmwood Pk., Ill.

Miss Harriet E. Slominski,
3307 N. Hamlin Ave.

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DR. BRADLEY KEPT THE FOLLOWING ENGAGEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1939

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1—Services at Peoples Church.

3—Address—Congregation B'Nai Zion Synagogue.

4—Radio Address—WBBM.
Book Lecture, Peoples Church.

5—Address at Palace Lodge A.F. & A.M. Masonic Temple, 614 E. 113th Street.

6—Address — Assembly, La Grange High School, La Grange, Ill.
Book Lecture, Peoples Church.
Radio Address—WBBM.
Attended meeting at Orchestra Hall.
Radio Address—WGN.

7—Address—Pan-American Union, Auditorium Hotel.

8—Services—Peoples Church.
Address—Meeting at Edgewater Beach Hotel.

9—Address — Congregational Ministers University Club.
Address—Woman's Club, Peoples Church.

Address—Associated Fur Industries, Drake Hotel.
Radio Address—WBBM.
10—Address—Bardwell P.T.A., Bardwell School, Aurora, Ill.
11—Book Lecture, Peoples Church.
Radio Address—WBBM.
Board Meeting — Peoples Church.
12—Address—House of Representatives, Capitol, Lansing, Michigan.
Address—Industrial Executives Club, Campus, Michigan State College, Lansing, Michigan.
13—Radio Address—WBBM.
Address—Railway Business Women's Ass'n., at Chicago Woman's Club.
14—Address—Izaak Walton League of America.
15—Services—Peoples Church.
16—Attended meeting of Chicago Youth Council of Non-Sectarian League at Palmer House.
Radio Address—WBBM.
Address—Temple, 6028 Champlain Ave.
17—Address—Annual Dinner Izaak Walton League of America, Sioux City, Iowa.
18—Book Lecture, Peoples Church.
Radio Address—WBBM.
19—Address—Friends of Literature, Picadilly Tea Room, World Broadcasting Company.
20—Radio Address—WBBM.
Address — Public Speaking Class, 6443 Sheridan Road.
21—Address — G. H. Hammond Company luncheon, Medinah Club.
22—Services—Peoples Church.
23—Radio Address—WBBM.
Meeting Board of Chicago Public Library.
Address—Men's Club, Peoples Church.
24—Address—Windsor Park Woman's Club.
Address — Barrington Town Hall Series.
25—Address—WBBM.
Book Lecture, Peoples Church.
27—Address—Arche Club, Shoreland Hotel.
Conference—Unitarian Council.
Meeting—Chicago Public Library.
Address—River Forest First M.E. Church.
28—Christening—1140 Michigan Ave., Wilmette.
29—Services—Peoples Church.
30—Address—Advertising Men's Post, American Legion, Sherman Hotel.
Radio Address—WBBM.
Address — City Auditorium, City Hall, Geneva, Ill.
31—Address — Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom—Peoples Church.
Address — Progress Club, South Bend, Ind.

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WEDDINGS

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January, 1939

7—John Wilber Delles and Dorothy Penneman.
7—Edward Shepard and Anna Wieland.
14—William A. Richards, Jr., and Mary Louise Hauser.
15—William H. Carter, and Edna H. Carter.
21—Frank Kasprzyk, and Rose Paluczkiewicz.
21—Fred Schieb, and Helen Haitz.
28—Norman E. Bunting, and Bessie George.

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FUNERALS

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January, 1939

16—Fred Gielow, Interment, Montrose.
24—James Martin Triner, Interment, Bohemian National.
28—Charles G. Carlson, Sr., Interment, Acacia Park.
31—Mrs. Jennis S. Danks, Interment, Rosehill.

THE SAGA OF ROLLIN B. ORGAN

Editor's Note: (Mr. Organ is the oldest—by point of age—member of The Peoples Church. He is loyal in his attendance, seldom missing a service. He has given his "Saga" to be printed in The Liberalist and we are glad to honor him. His many friends will appreciate reading the story of his eventful life. It will be printed in three parts as lack of space prevents more.)

II.

Organ awaited with vexatious impatience the passage of time during the civil war until he was old enough to join the colors. He was "rarin to go," keen for adventure, and he decided to enter the naval service, because that branch afforded more opportunity for exciting, if not romantic episodes. Accordingly, he left his home town in Iowa and hurried to Chicago, where he located a naval recruiting rendezvous, in front of which was a sign displayed reading "Recruits wanted: Men and boys for the gun-boat service." He told the officer in charge of his desire to enlist, passed the physical examination, and was then conveyed to Mound City and billeted aboard the receiving ship "Clara Dolson." He was fitted out with a naval uniform and passed the remaining fortnight accustoming himself to the navy ration, when he was drafted with 135 other recruits and placed on the gun-boat Conestoga as members of a crew assigned to the gun-boat Manitou, whose name was shortly thereafter changed to the "Fort Hindman," then lying in the Mississippi, at the mouth of White River, thence proceeding down to Vicksburg, and, on July 3rd, 1863, reporting by signal to Admiral David D. Porter, whose flagship, was the "Rattler," the Fort Hindman coming to anchor in a bend of the river, behind a stretch of tall timber. Then the Fort Hindman was signalled from the flagship to come out in plain sight of Vicksburg, fire one gun at the enemy, and then return to shelter of the timber, the idea being, as was subsequently explained, to credit the Fort Hindman with having participated in the bombardment of Vicksburg. On July 5th, along with seven or eight other gunboats, the Fort Hindman ascended the Mississippi to the Yazoo river, thence to Yazoo City, where they encountered the wreck of the U. S. gun-boat "Baron de Kalb," which had been torpedoed on the preceding day, and aboard of which there still remained a Masters Mate with a detachment of her crew. On the following day, the Fort Hindman was ordered to proceed down the Yazoo to the Mississippi river and thence to Vicksburg, where she was ordered to proceed to and up the Red River, thence into the Little Red River, a small tributary of the Black River, and into Old River, in pursuit of and to capture, if possible, the Confederate sidewheel steamboat "Louisville," known to be loaded with cotton and other contraband of great value; she was one of a number of Confederate vessels similarly engaged. The Fort Hindman was shorter in length than the Louisville and was thus better fitted for making quick turns of the many bends in those tortuous streams. Within about four hours after beginning the chase, the Fort Hindman rounded a bend and there, in plain sight, and almost alongside, was the Louisville rounding another bend, and but for the dense smoke arising from her stacks was fast disappearing, when the Fort Hindman fired an 8-inch Columbiad and demolished her port wheelhouse. The Louisville immediately blew her whistle and lowered her flag in token of surrender! Mr. Organ, armed with a rifle and functioning as a sharpshooter, was stationed at that moment in the pilot-house of the Fort Hindman when that vessel

nosed in between the Louisville and the river bank, which brought their two hurricane decks side by side and touching each other, thus enabling Mr. Organ, still carrying his rifle, to jump aboard the prize vessel. Then, under instructions from his Captain, he ran direct to the pilot-house of the Louisville, and ordered the pilot to keep her in midstream and to allow no person to go ashore. Meanwhile, the deck-hands on the Louisville were preparing to launch a gang-plank to enable them to effect their escape, but were halted by Mr. Organ with his rifle, until a prize crew was hastily assembled and placed aboard the Louisville.

On the following day, the Louisville was taken to Cairo where she was converted into a three-deck gun-boat with a battery of thirty-nine guns, renamed the U.S.S. Ouachita, and attached to the General Nathaniel P. Banks' Expedition up the Red River. For his fearless participation in the capture of this valuable boat and cargo, Mr. Organ was awarded a generous share of the prize money.

For several months after the capture of the Louisville, the Fort Hindman did guard duty along the Mississippi, between the mouth of the Red River and Natchez, making her headquarters at Ellisses Cliffs. Then the Fort Hindman was ordered to join the Banks' Expedition up the Red River. On our way up to Shrevesport, our flotilla of gun-boats escorted five or six large transports carrying twenty-five hundred troops and their vast quantities of equipage. And, oh, the snags and sand bars, our flotilla and the transports were constantly encountering; we had no pilots whose loyalty was to be depended on, mostly tricky rebel sympathizers, whose apparent aim was to wreck us, and it was wonderful how we made any headway. If one of the transports ran aground, a gun-boat would haul it off, and there was not a transport in the fleet that we did not pull clear of obstructions five or six times before we reached Loggy Bayou. Who that has not been to sea knows the devices of sailors for removing obstacles of this character? A timber-hitch around a pile, the hawser belayed to the bitt-heads, and half a dozen turns back with the wheels or screws and the whole thing is done, and in this way a dozen gun-boats went to work and in a few hours undid the enemies work of many months!

While under way and nearing Alexandria, the various crews of the gun-boats were called to quarters at about daylight and were in action shortly after, Mr. Organ being stationed in the pilot house of the Fort Hindman as a sharp-shooter. In the latter part of our attack on Alexandria, a single gun of a masked battery made it very unpleasant for the Fort Hindman by firing at our flotilla and then disappearing very mysteriously. We could not understand it, until one of our Master's Mates discovered the trick; the gun was in a little brick school house, the door of which would be closed while the gun was being re-loaded, then the door would be re-opened and the muzzle extended when the gun would be fired and the recoil would send it back inside the school house and the door closed. Then the Fort Hindman trained its number 1 gun, a 100-lb. Parrott on that door and the school house was demolished; several persons emerged from the wreck, and some soldiers told us that there were sixteen dead rebels in the wreckage.

Mr. Organ relates an exciting incident which transpired after the destruction of this school house and the surrender of the Alexandria forts, and when word came up to the pilot-house that hot coffee was being served at the ship's galley. He says that he and his 'buddy' slid down a hog chain and landed on the 'guard' of the gun-boat; bales of cotton had been placed around the pilot-house and

other exposed places on the Fort Hindman, and there was a quantity of loose cotton on the 'guard's' of the vessel and as it was smoking and smouldering, an officer on the spar deck called out to me and my buddy to kick that smouldering cotton off into the river, and virtually in the same breath ordered some men on the spar deck to roll the bales of cotton that were smoking into the river. The first bale they pushed off the deck knocked me and my buddie into the river; our boat, a side-wheeler was turning around with the wheel coming toward us; I quickly dived down and got clear of it, but my less fortunate 'buddy' was never seen again! I swam to a floating bale of cotton and got on top of it, when I noticed a cap floating near by, I again plunged into the water and salvaged it, and it was my 'buddy's.' The Fort Hindman having come to a full stop I swam to her side and was assisted to her deck, with a very lame hip for about a week."

Several days after the Fort Hindman arrived at Alexandria, General Banks came up in a steamboat named the "Black Hawk", which he used as his headquarters. General Banks, who was a handsome, soldierly looking man, was rather theatrical in his style of dress, a veritable Beau Brummell. He wore yellow gauntlets high up on his wrists looking as clean as if they had just come from the factory, his hat was picturesque, his long boots and spurs were faultless, and his air was that of one used to command. His staff officers were not far behind him in their attire and set-up. The "Black Hawk" carried a cargo of cotton bagging, coils of rope and cotton speculators! How these gentry happened to be abroad with this unusual cargo is easily accounted for; our own spinners in Massachusetts and those overseas, in England especially, were then offering the alluring price of $2.50 per lb,. thus a 400-lb. bale of the staple was worth a thousand dollars! But that these speculators were afforded safe-conduct as passengers, along with their freight, on our government transports, was thought to create a suspicion as to the probity of those responsible for this safe-conduct. And, as a matter of fact, the whole affair was finally brought before the Congressional Committee on the conduct of the war, and it made a most unsavory chapter in the history of the war. It was proven that these speculators carried safe-conducts from Washington allowing them to "trade within the enemies lines", also, that they actually had steamers at the mouth of the Red River full of merchantable articles, the list of which, when examined would be found to include military boots, slouch hats, gray cloth, bowie knives and quinine. It is proper to dwell on the fact that there were no graduates of our naval academy among the officers involved in this scandal. Admiral Porter disapproved every request made to him for facilitating the "trade within the enemies lines," in utter disregard of the permits or safe-conducts from Washington.

No one ever knew who originated the expedition, generally referred to as the Banks' Expedition up the Red River, or what its object was. No one cared to father the colossal failure; it was a series of mistakes from beginning to end. It was undertaken at the season of the year when it could not possibly have been a success, if it was intended that any number of transports should be included in it along with the lightdraft gun-boats. The Red River, at that season was the most treacherous of all rivers. There was no depending on it, according to the rules which govern other navigable streams and when you would figure out that there would be a rise, 10 to 1 the water would be lower than ever! At any rate, just as our flotilla, with its convoy, had succeeded in passing Grand Ecore, we came upon an obstruction in

the form of a wrecked vessel, the "New Falls City," sunk there by the enemy to prevent our ascending further. This compelled us to return to Grand Ecore, where we were delayed for another ten days, but not until we had undergone disaster. The good people who had met us on the way up, at the different landings, now seemed sorry to see us going back; they got out their guns and saluted us, but, unfortunately for us, those guns were shotted. They killed a number of our men. At first, the balls came like single drops of rain, then came in showers, and we were compelled to land and take on board contraband bales of cotton for protection to our crews and to the soldiers and other persons on the transports. Of course, we returned the enemy fire, but what harm could that do to people who were in deep rifle-pits, screened by trees or in a cane-brake. Then, when we had descended the river about sixty miles, some one hailed us from the shore and said that he had a dispatch for us; the messenger had probably concluded that we were going confidently on to meet General Banks. The dispatch read briefly, "General Banks badly defeated; return."

And this may be regarded as the closing chapter in Rollin B. Organ's participation in the Civil War.

Returning now to the victorious 4th of July, when the Confederate flag was lowered at Vicksburg and the Stars and Stripes was hoisted in its stead:—When our flag was hoisted on the ramparts of Vicksburg, the flagship and every vessel of our fleet steamed up or down to the levee before the city. Admiral Porter had signalled for all commanding officers to assemble with him in his cabin for the purpose of personally congratulating General Grant. The captain of the Fort Hindman, who was just an Ohio river steamboat man, unfamiliar with naval etiquette on such an occasion, took with him Coxswain Organ, as his "personal orderly." The ceremonial was of so joyous an occasion that the solecism was overlooked and thus Mr. Organ was numbered as "among those present." General Grant soon emerged out of a cloud of dust, mounted, at the head of a column made up of nearly all of his Generals, together with their respective staffs. They rode up to the gangway of the flagship and dismounting, came on board. And what a time the boatswain had in piping such a crowd over the side! It was a happy meeting; a great handshaking, hugging and fervent congratulations. Admiral Porter opened up the contents of all of his wine lockers which on this occasion contained only Catawba wine. It disappeared down the parched throats which, for some time, had been imbibing only muddy water, yet it exhilarated that assemblage as weak wine had never done before.

There was one guest there who preserved the same quiet demeanor he always bore, whether in adversity or victory, and that was General Ulysses S. Grant. No one, seeing him seated there, with that calm exterior amid all the jollity, would ever have taken him for the renowned warrior who had just accomplished one of the most stupendous military feats on record. There was a quiet satisfaction on his face that could not be be concealed, but he behaved on this occasion as if nothing of importance had occurred. General Grant was the only one in that assemblage, barring Mr. Organ, who did not touch the simple wine offered him; he contented himself with a cigar. As to his apparel, it was in conspicuous disorder, completely covered with dust, presenting the appearance of a "Rough Rider", in all that the term implies.

It would be as difficult to do full justice to the navy for its persistent efforts to put an end to the siege of Vicksburg as it would be to the army for its fortitude amid privations and dangers and its discipline maintained during so

peculiar a condition of affairs. General Grant testified with pleasure to the zeal with which the naval forces before Vicksburg at all times cooperated with the army.

History tells us that it took a combined army of 100,000 men to overcome at Sevastopol, the great strongholds of the Malakoff tower and the Redan; and these strongholds , which have become famous in ballad and story, never in any way compared with the defenses of Vicksburg, which looked as if a thousand Titans had been put to work to make those heights unassailable. The hills above with their frowning tops standing in defiance, were enough to deter a foe, without having intrenchments bristling with cannon and manned by the hardiest troops in the Confederacy! Everything about the siege of Vicksburg is an anecdote or a reminiscence.

(To be concluded in March number)

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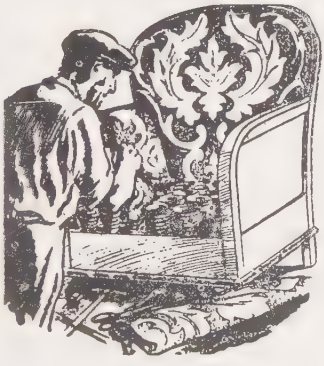

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